

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2373

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AALC, NI

SUBJECT: AALC TURNS OVER MOTOR DRIVERS' SCHOOL TO ULC

REF: LAGOS 9752

BEGIN SUMMRY: AALC TURNED OVER CONTROL OF MOTOR DRIVERS' SCHOOL TO ULC AFFILIATE IN BRIEF CEREMONY JANUARY 12, 1974.

1. AT URGING OF AALC REPRESENTATIVE GOULD, TECHNICAL ADVISER TO AALC-FUNDED MOTOR DRIVERS' AND MECHANICS SCHOOL, TOM BRYANT, HANDED OVER CONTROL OF SCHOOL TO ULC ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY ODEYEMI IN A BRIEF CEREMONY JANUARY 12, 1974. ODEYEMI WAS ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF SCHOOL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AS GENERAL SECRETARY NIGERIAN MOTOR DRIVERS' AND ALLIED TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION, CEREMONY WAS HURRIEDLY PUT TOGETHER BY BRYANT AND ODEYEMI AFTER GOULD EXPLAINED BRYANT WOULD BE LIABLE FOR SCHOOL'S DEBTS OR SALARIES INCURRED AFTER JANUARY 1 WHEN AALC FUNDING STOPPED. DUE TO HURRIED NATURE OF CEREMONY ONLY PARTICIPANTS WERE FEW TOP ULC OFFICIALS, AALC REP AND EMBOFF. NO FMG OFFICIALS TOOK PART AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THEY WERE INFORMED OF CEREMONY.

2. SPEECHES AT FUNCTION WERE THINLY LAUDATORY OF AALC ROLE IN FUNDING SCHOOL OVER PAST EIGHT YEARS. ULC PRESIDENT KALTUNGO

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MADE SPECIAL NOTE OF FACT ULC HAD KNOWN FOR PAST YEAR THAT

AALC FUNDING WAS SCHEDULED TO STOP AND WARNED AGAINST ANY IMPRESSION AALC MOVE WAS UNSUSPECTED OR UNANNOUNCED. BOTH ODEYEMI AND KALTUNGO REFERRED TO INTEREST IN SCHOOL BY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FUND (ITF) AND COMMITTEE GOVERNING 1975 BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL. ACCORDING TO ULC LEADERS, ITF WILL INSPECT SCHOOL JANUARY 15 AS PART OF FINAL EFFORT IN DETERMINING IF ITF WILL GRANT FUNDS TO SCHOOL TO TRAIN DRIVERS FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY. BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE IS REPORTED READY TO VOTE FUNDS AT MARCH MEETING TO ENABLE SCHOOL TO TRAIN BETWEEN 1200 AND 2000 DRIVERS FOR FESTIVAL NEEDS. ODEYEMI NOTED PRIVATELY THAT BOTH GROUPS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THIS SCHOOL BECAUSE OF BRYANT'S PRESENCE AS TECHNICAL ADVISER. REPEATED REFERENCE WAS MADE BY KALTUNGO AND ODEYEMI TO BRYANT'S ROLE IN SCHOOL AND BOTH ASKED AALC TO RECONSIDER FUNDING OF BRYANT'S SALARY FOR ONE MORE YEAR.

3. ODEYEMI AND BRYANT CONTINUE TO VOICE HOPE AALC WILL RECONSIDER TRAINING SCHOOL PROJECT AND AGREE TO PICK UP BRYANT'S SALARY FOR ANOTHER YEAR. THEY NOTE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ULC'S PENDING CONTACTS WITH FMG THROUGH ITF AND BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL CONTRACTS. THEY ARGUE AALC SHOULD SHARE THIS POLITICAL PRESTIGE BY BEING INVOLVED IN JOINT PROJECT WITH FMG. BRYANT SUGGESTS NIGERIANS WILL BE "INSULTED" BY AALC COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL WHEN SCHOOL IS ON VERGE OF SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATING THESE CONTRACTS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE BOTH ODEYEMI AND BRYANT FROM HOLDING OUT HOPE FOR CONTINUED AALC PARTICIPATION. WE HAVE NOTED LONGSTANDING AALC AND AID DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN THIS PORTION OF AALC CONTRACT AND FACT THAT FMG THROUGH EITHER THE ITF OR THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL CAN WELL AFFORD TO HIRE BRYANT IF THEY REQUIRE HIS SERVICES. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IF ULC DESIRES FURTHER AALC PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM IT IS UP TO ULC TO WRITE AALC REQUESTING ASSISTANCE AND SPELLING OUT EXACTLY WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THIS SPECIAL PROJECT.
AALC REP GOULD
REQUESTS DEPARTMENT INFORM O'FARRELL OF TURNOVER CEREMONY.
CROSBY

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Message Attributes

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